

Jacob Anderson

Macrae Murphy

Caleb Russell

Brooklynn Gilpin

Jamie Preston

Josie Gates

Bryan Herrera

Alexa Rivera

Trent Walker

The Ineffectiveness of Homework

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Fort Osage High School

Fort Osage High School

2020 Current Events Class



Unique mix of Rural/Suburban

Approximately 1400 High School
Students

Located in Eastern Independence,
MO



Presenters

Bryan Herrera

Alexa Rivera

Caleb Russell

Senior Students

- Goals

What we gained from this project

How this will prepare us for our future goals



PROBLEM STATEMENT:

Homework is ineffective and should be eliminated in high school.

- “It may surprise you, as it did me, to learn that no study has ever demonstrated any academic benefit to assigning homework before children are in high school. In fact, even in high school, the association between homework and achievement is weak -- and the data doesn't show that — homework is responsible for higher achievement. (Correlation doesn't imply causation.)” -Alfie Kohn, Educational Author

In fact . . .

- “No research has ever found a benefit to assigning homework In fact, there isn’t even a positive *correlation* between, on the one hand, having [students] do some homework (vs. none), or more (vs. less), and, on the other hand, any measure of achievement. If we’re making
- [students] do homework, it’s either because we’re misinformed about what the evidence says or because we think kids ought to have to do homework *despite* what the evidence says.”



So Why Assign Homework?

Homework encourages practice

- Encourages the discipline of practice
- Repetition is needed to get better skills
- Makes concepts more clear

Homework can teach time management

- Forcing kids to plan their time
- Make sure their homework is done on time
- Forces decision making and compromises to be made

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Homework can get parents involved

- Helping your kids in school can help you bond

Homework helps develop many different skills

- Improves retention and understanding
- Improves study skills and attitudes towards school
- Independence and responsibility



Does Homework Work?

- Homework must be authentic, meaningful, and engaging
 - Homework can boost learning, but doing too much can be detrimental.
- Homework has many benefits, ranging from higher academic performance to improved study skills and stronger school parent connections.
 - However, it can also result in a loss of interest in academics, fatigue, and a loss of important personal and family time

Time Spent on Homework

- Every high schooler could (or when they have homework, should) spend 45 – 75 minutes per night.
 - Grade 9 – 12 students usually receive four to five sets of homework per week.
- • Other obligations and schedules often make this a difficult task to complete

Data behind homework



- 58% of parents feel like homework is just right. 19% feel like it is too much. 23% feel like it is too little.
- Most educators agree that for children in junior high can take 90 minutes of homework. High school students can take 1-2.5 hours of homework.
- Most school policies state high schools students should expect **30 mins of homework for each academic course** being taken and maybe more for advanced classes.

What This Means

- Homework has been an integral part of high school education
- Homework is still expected of high school students
- Homework takes extra time out of a student's schedule to continue school work

BUT, this doesn't take into account

- Student schedules, activities, requirements, and other responsibilities
- The possibility of each class assigning homework providing at least 3 hours of extra work per night
 - Due to these extra expectations, homework can have a negative effect instead of a positive impact on students

Negative Effects of Homework

- Stressing out the students
- Nothing shows homework leads to success
- Many times work is simply “busy work” and may go ungraded or not reviewed

Student Resources are often lacking

- 41% don't have resources
- Some don't have time to do homework
- Don't have their parents to help



Our Experiences

- Personally I think this is too much work. If I have 1-2 worksheets I have the motivation to get them done but if I am assigned an essay and many worksheets then I will have no motivation to get them done.
- In my experiences my teachers would word the questions different on the test compared to in the homework which makes it a lot harder to do good on the test when I studied something way different.

Stanford research states these 3 things about homework:

- Greater Stress- Less than 1 % of students said that homework was NOT a stressor
- Reductions in Health- Many students said homework causes them less sleep and other health issues such as headaches, exhaustion, weight less, ect.
- Less time for friends, family, extracurricular activities and athletics- According to researchers, students spend too much time doing homework and they're not meeting developmental needs or other critical life skills

Our Stories

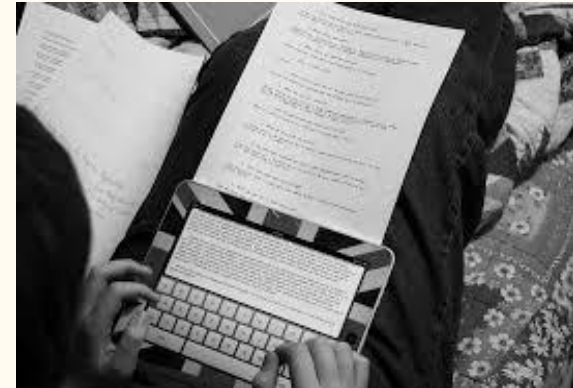
- I do cheerleading and I come to school and sit through 8 hours of in class work and 3 hours of practice. On days that i do not have school or practice I have a job that I work from 4-10 which leaves me no time for homework. I also take care of my 4 year old sister which takes up a lot of my time.
- Alexa



- My sophomore geometry teacher assigned a good amount of homework but it was all worth 1 point so I didn't do it and I still passed the class with like a 93% so clearly I didn't need the homework and did great on all the tests.-Jacob
- I play basketball and have personally went through jugglings many things at once and it is hard. I go from school for 8 hours, 3 hours of basketball and go home and possibly have 2 or more hours of homework. It causes stress and a sleep deprivation. - Brooklynn

Data behind negative effects

- Lots of kids do extracurricular activities or play sports to help them refresh their minds and body from schooling, but if they go home and have loads of homework to do then it leaves them in lack of spending time with families and friends. Leaving these kids feeling like they are isolated or have no support system.
- Kids balancing school and a part time job have a hard time doing so, studies have been shown if there is no time to relax and socialize this could have an effect on lives.



Homework is Ineffective

- research supports that homework is ineffective because of how teachers teach
- Traditional lecture style teaching is the other main form of teaching which realistically only teaches students to retain — certain information only to forget it shortly after the test
- Homework is often a repeat of information or encourages students to “teach themselves” material for the class

Reasons why homework is ineffective

- Researchers say that whenever students are given homework that is challenging it brings immense stress to that student.
- Families also suffer because most parents are not able to help their kids in doing homework, do to the lack of education of the topic which causes problems at home.
- Researchers have found that more than $\frac{2}{3}$ of students use drugs/ alcohol to cope with stress.
- 41% of kids live in poverty and might not have the resources or time to do homework.



Why we shouldn't have homework

- Too much work could (and can) cause depression.
 - More time on doing doesn't necessarily bring better results.
 - Excessive workload may encourage cheating.
 - Kids/Teens need time away from school to relax.
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- Time consuming - doing homework should not take more than 3 hours a day. There isn't enough time in the day to go to school, participate in activities, have a job, and complete excessive amounts of homework.

Our Suggestion

To eliminate homework



Pros

- Decrease of stress in students.
- The students grades don't suffer from not doing it or turning it in late
- It allows students to have more family time

Our Suggestion

To eliminate homework

Cons

- It can help parents and teachers identify learning disabilities.
- ■ Homework allows teachers to observe how their students understand the material.
- It teaches students how to manage their time wisely.

How do we eliminate homework?

- ● Active learning is a style of teaching that allows students to be engaged so that the material being learned actually gets rooted into their brain.

Active learning vs lecture

- A study done by the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences proved that students truly retained the information from the class better when learning through active learning.
 - When active learning was tested, test results came back higher indicating that students benefited more from active learning
 - Traditional teaching proved to be ineffective in helping students actually connect and learn
 - In active learning homework was not given and in the traditional style it was
 - The homework did not help the students improve in any way, proving that it was inefficient.

Our Solution

If students and teachers participated in more hands-on active learning experiences, there would not be a need for homework to reinforce strategies and lessons.

Students would learn by doing instead of listening to lecture, filling out worksheets, or other ineffective teaching strategies.



Making This Happen

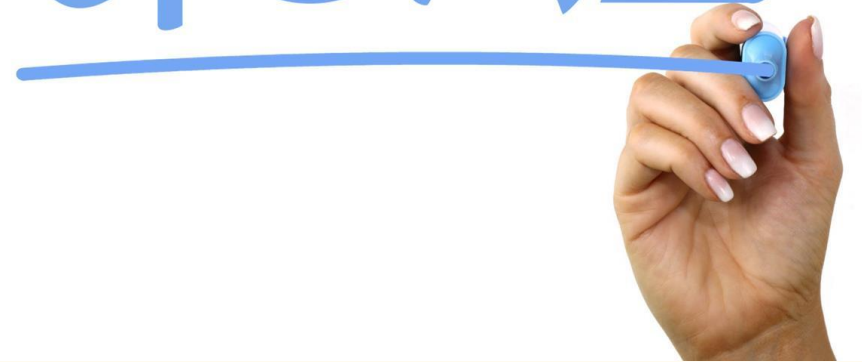
- Rethink and reimagine classroom curriculum
 - Teachers would need to be encouraged and supported in endeavors that improve classroom experiences for students
 - Increase hands-on activities which teach skills, standards, and material instead of lecture
 - Provide materials for active learning opportunities in the classroom
- Provide resources and opportunities
 - Increase community engagement in the educational system
 - Much like this project, community partners will be necessary to provide meaningful experience opportunities for students which focus on skills after high school along with classroom curriculum
- Increase instructional time
 - Restructure the school day to provide plenty of opportunities to teach and reteach curriculum content without the need for at home assignments and activities

Our Goal

Ultimately, we want to see future students be able to learn through various means, but ultimately those which benefit them the most such as hands-on learning.

We would like to see districts implement plans that partner with community resources to increase opportunities for students to learn in various ways.

GOAL



We want to see students be able to manage time between school and other activities with less stress and more enjoyment.



We Appreciate Your Time

Thank you for joining us today. If you have questions, we would be happy to answer them at this time.

Please join us on our online discussion board.

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